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## **CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS TO BE CHARGED MONTHLY**

\_\_\_\_\_, MI, \_\_\_\_\_ (date) – On December 1, 2002, Michigan joined a majority of states by charging child support in a monthly amount instead of weekly amounts.

Despite the change, "Most Friend of the Court customers will not experience any difference in their support payments," advised [name of FOC], [county name] County Friend of the Court. "This new law does not change the amount of support, only the time when it is charged to the payer." [FOC last name] noted that "Most states already charge support as a monthly amount in order to better comply with federal reporting requirements."

The change is required under recent state legislation aimed at improving the Friend of the Court system. In the past, parents who paid child support were charged on a weekly basis. In addition, the day that child support was charged varied among Michigan's 83 counties.

Under the new law, child support is charged to the paying parent on the first day of the month, a requirement that applies to all Michigan counties. That monthly amount must be paid in full by the end of the month. In cases where child support is deducted from a parent's wages, child support payments will continue to be made each time the parent is paid.

[FOC last name] stated that, in cases where a child support payer owes support to children in more than one county, child support recipients may find that their payments are in a more consistent amount.

"Because child support will be charged on the same date state-wide, Michigan's Friend of the Court offices can more easily report child support information to federal authorities," [FOC last name] stated. Michigan's child support program receives federal funding; to receive that funding, the state must compile a monthly report on child support collections.

The new law also permits child support payers to pay up to one month's child support in advance, as long as child support is still due. If the payer makes an overpayment, the Friend of the Court will hold it until the next child support pay date. If the amount of overpayment is more than one month's worth of support, the new law requires the Friend of the Court to return the excess funds to the payer.